

2009

Loudoun County
Department of Fire,
Rescue and Emergency
Management

Communications and
Support Services



800 MHZ UPGRADE NEWSLETTER

EDITION TWO

Radio Upgrade Notes - September 2009:

- ✓ Volunteer Company Grant Radios:
 - We are working on paperwork for the transfer of your grant and / or company owned radio equipment to the County of Loudoun for the new Apex equipment.
 - All volunteer companies should identify the radios that have been purchased via grant funding. Once identified, contact should be made to the Grantor to inquire about the upcoming transfer / replacement of the radios.
- ✓ Mobile Radios
 - The delivery of the Apex mobile radios has been delayed and projected to be January 2010.
 - A temporary fix has been identified by Motorola and will require the flash upgrade of the existing mobile radios.
 - This is expected to begin in the next two weeks
 - The current Astro Spectra mobile radios once flashed will work on the new system although it will lack many features the new Apex will give the user.
- ✓ Vehicle Chargers
 - The chargers will have to be changed out for a new model but the wiring and hopefully the bracket will be able to stay the same.
 - Motorola is working to get them to us in time to be installed although they could be delayed. If so, arrangements will be made to have additional gang chargers and batteries till the units are installed.
- ✓ Portable Radios
 - New model will mean that a new aftermarket leather case will have to be developed. A nylon case that will work with the current strap has been ordered for each portable as a temporary solution until new cases are made.
 - We are looking into the possibility of working with a vendor to get this process moving ahead of schedule.
- ✓ Template Testing
 - At the end of August, three of the eleven current frequencies will be converted to the new system for the purpose of testing the radio template for the portables. This will not impact the day – to – day user.
 - During this time, we will also be testing the information we created on the new portables for the other jurisdictions.
- ✓ The Train – the – Trainer for the new radios is scheduled for the end of October – beginning of November to train personnel for each station.
 - Volunteer Chiefs should begin to think about who would be the best choice for their stations.
 - Two personnel per station will be trained.
- ✓ AS part of the upgrade, the microwave system was upgraded.
 - The system now creates a loop for redundancy.
 - Pictures have been attached of work to change the dishes and upgrade the current equipment.

[illegible]

Bluemont Tower



New Cascades Tower



Microwave Dish Installation @ Loudoun Heights



Questions – Concerns:

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